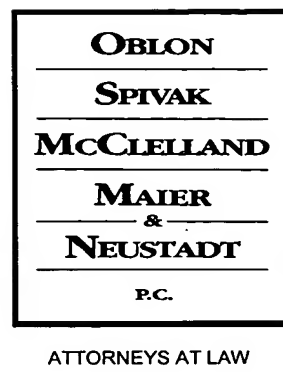




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Docket No.: 245139US8

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 10/702,573
Applicants: Kunihiro KAWAI, et al.
Filing Date: November 7, 2003
For: SIGNAL SWITCHING DEVICE
Group Art Unit: 1751
Examiner: Kallambella M. Vijayakumar

SIR:

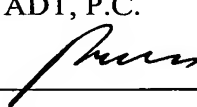
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of **\$0.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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DOCKET NO: 245139US8

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
KUNIHIO KAWAI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: KALLAMBELLA M.
VIJAYAKUMAR
SERIAL NO: 10/702,573 :
FILED: NOVEMBER 7, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1751
FOR: SIGNAL SWITCHING DEVICE :

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement stated in the Official Action dated October 11, 2006, Applicants in the above-identified patent application provisionally elect Group II, Claims 6-17, drawn to a signal switching device.

The Restriction Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to distinct inventions. However, MPEP §803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be of an overlapping search area.

Application No. 10/702,573
Reply to Office Action of October 11, 2006

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully **traverse** the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

However, if the present Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, examination on the merits of the Claims of Group II is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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(OSMMN 06/04)

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